

In the Claims

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A safety syringe, comprising:

a hollow body, said body being of a first predetermined length and having an outer surface, a first end, a second end, cylindrical bore of a first predetermined diameter and means for gripping the hollow body adjacent the second end;

said first end including an opening of the first predetermined diameter;

said second end including a cavity extending from the cylindrical bore and terminating in an outlet portion, said outlet portion having a first end, a center section and a second end and being fixedly attached at its first end to the cavity;

said outlet portion including an orifice of a second predetermined diameter, said orifice extending outwardly from said cavity;

a hollow needle, said needle having a first end and a second end and being fixedly attached at its first end to the second end of the outlet portion such that fluid may travel from the cylindrical bore, through the cavity, through the outlet portion and through the needle;

a plunger, said plunger having a longitudinal shaft longer than the first predetermined length, a first end and a second end, a thumb pad fixedly attached to the first end of said shaft, and a piston, said piston being

formed of a resilient material, attached to the second end of said shaft, and
being sized and shaped to fit sealably within the cylindrical bore of the
hollow body;

a needle shield, said shield having an outer surface, a first end, a second end, and
being sized and shaped to fit slidably over the needle and at least a portion
of the hollow body of the syringe;

means for moving the needle shield from the first position to the second position
using a single hand;

means for containing any fluid leaking from the second end of the needle within
the needle shield when the shield is secured to the hollow body in the
second position;

means for securing the needle shield at its first end to the hollow body in a first
position, said first position permitting the second end of the needle to
extend outwardly from the second end of the shield and in a second
position in which the second end of the needle shield extends beyond the
second end of the needle, said means comprising:

~~A safety syringe as described in Claim 1, wherein the means for securing the
needle shield at its first end to the hollow body in first and second
positions further comprises:~~

a first surrounding groove, said first groove disposed upon the
outer surface of the hollow body adjacent its second end;
a second surrounding groove, said second groove disposed upon
the outer surface of the hollow body adjacent its first end;

an engaging finger, said finger being formed of resilient material and having an upper surface, a lower surface, an activating end, an attaching end and a pivot point disposed between said ends;

a securing tooth, said tooth having an upper end and a lower end and being fixedly attached at its upper end to the lower surface of the engaging finger adjacent the attaching end; said securing tooth being sized, shaped and disposed to removably engage one of the first and second surrounding grooves on the hollow body;

a mounting post, said post having an upper end, a lower end and being fixedly mounted at its lower end to the outer surface of the needle shield adjacent its first end;

said post being fixedly attached at its upper end to the lower surface of the engaging finger at the pivot point such that the resilient material of the engagement finger will bias the securing tooth downwardly to removably engage one of the first and second surrounding grooves; and

whereby, when pressure is applied to the upper surface of the engaging finger adjacent its activating end the securing tooth will pivot upwardly away from one of the first and second securing grooves, thereby permitting the needle shield to move slidably from the first position to the second

position and when the securing tooth is positioned over one of the first and second securing grooves and pressure is relieved from the upper surface of the engaging finger the securing tooth will engage one of said grooves, thereby preventing further movement of the needle shield.

3. (currently amended) A safety syringe as described in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the means for moving the needle shield from the first position to the second position using a single hand further comprises an indentation, said indentation being disposed upon the outer surface of the needle shield adjacent its first end and being sized and shaped to engage a finger pad of a user.
4. (currently amended) A safety syringe as described in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the means for containing any fluid leaking from the second end of the needle within the needle shield when the shield is secured to the hollow body in the second position further comprises:
 - a sealing membrane, said membrane being fixedly attached to the second end of the needle shield and permitting the hollow needle and the second end and center section of the outlet portion to pass through the membrane when the needle shield is in the first position; and

said sealing membrane being capable of sealing the second end of the needle shield when the shield is in the second position with the hollow needle and outlet portion withdrawn within the shield.

5. (currently amended) A safety syringe as described in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the means for containing any fluid leaking from the second end of the needle within the needle shield when the shield is secured to the hollow body in the second position further comprises:

a sealing membrane, said membrane being fixedly attached to the second end of the needle shield and permitting the hollow needle to pass through the membrane when the needle shield is in the first position; and
said sealing membrane being capable of sealing the second end of the needle shield when the shield is in the second position with the hollow needle withdrawn within the shield.

6. (currently amended) A safety syringe as described in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the needle shield is formed of a resilient material and the means for containing any fluid leaking from the second end of the needle within the needle shield when the shield is secured to the hollow body in the second position further comprises:

a flattened closure means formed at the second end of the needle shield, said closure means having a pair of mating lips at said second end, said lips permitting the hollow needle and the second end and center section of the

outlet portion to pass there between when the needle shield is in the first position; and

said lips being capable of sealing the second end of the needle shield when the shield is in the second position with the hollow needle and outlet portion withdrawn within the shield.

7. (currently amended) A safety syringe as described in ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein the needle shield is formed of a resilient material and the means for containing any fluid leaking from the second end of the needle within the needle shield when the shield is secured to the hollow body in the second position further comprises:

a flattened closure means formed at the second end of the needle shield, said closure means having a pair of mating lips at said second end, said lips permitting the hollow needle to pass there between when the needle shield is in the first position; and

said lips being capable of sealing the second end of the needle shield when the shield is in the second position with the hollow needle withdrawn within the shield.

6.-14. (withdrawn)*

* Claims 6 and 7 are withdrawn but shown above for the Examiner's reconsideration.